Remarks

In the last office action, the Examiner stated that it was "unclear as to what a "Dedicated Mediation Device" or a "Distributed Mediation Device" is. The Examiner also stated it is unclear what the differences are between the two.

The Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to the Background of the Invention, where the definitions for both a dedicated and distributed mediation device is given in "Mediation Device Operation", Qicai Shi, Ed Callaway, Document IEEE 802.15-01/1188r1.

In any event, the "Mediation Device" is the subject of section 4, beginning on p. 3. There, it is stated that "In order to overcome this issue, a 'Mediation Device' (MD) is introduced here. A MD can record and replay a message; it functions as an "answering machine". The most important task of a MD is to record and replay simple control messages such as the following: "who is talking", "with whom does it want to talk", and " what time it will talk again", etc."

Operation of the "Dedicated Mediation Device" is the subject of section 5, beginning on p. 4. The text begins with "In this implementation, the MD is a dedicated device. For star networks, in which all devices are within range of a single device, there is one MD. The MD has larger power consumption than the regular devices." The behavior then follows.

Operation of the "Distributed Mediation Device" is the subject of section 6, beginning on p. 9. The text begins with "In this implementation, the MD is not a dedicated device. It is instead part of the functionality of every device in the network. All devices within the network have the responsibility to function as a MD at certain points in time (just as in a bicycle race, each rider has to be the leader once in a while). A device becomes a MD randomly. Once it is an MD, it functions exactly as a dedicated MD as described earlier. After one MD period, the device goes back to the normal model. This pattern repeats throughout the lifetime of the device." The behavior then follows.

"Mediation Device Operation", Qicai Shi, Ed Callaway, Document IEEE 802.15-01/1188r1 is attached with this action. An IDS will follow.

Respectfully Submitted,
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by:

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